

Vermont Commission on Women
Meeting minutes
December 12, 2012
Pavilion Office Building, 4th floor conference room
Montpelier VT

Commissioners present:

Marcia Merrill, Chair; Eileen Boland, Carol Buchdahl, Charlotte Dennett, Laine Dunham, Ruth Finn, Susie Hudson, Dr. Felicia Kornbluh, and Shambulia Gadsden Sams.

Commissioners absent:

Gretchen Bailey, Cathy Frey, Jennie Gartner, Peg Martin, Anne McClaughry, and Marion Milne.

No advisors were present.

Guest: Katina Cummings

Staff: Cary Brown, Janet Bullard (with grandson Bryson), and Lilly Talbert

Presiding: Marcia Merrill

Recording: Janet Bullard

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Minutes

MOTION made by Carol Buchdahl and seconded by Laine Dunham:

To approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012 meeting as submitted.

MOTION APPROVED

3. Planning Session

Review of VCW Statute

Commissioners reviewed the VCW authorizing statute, focusing their attention on Sections (g) “The commission shall conduct studies of matters concerning women, and in furtherance of that responsibility may:...”, and (h) “The powers of the commission shall include, but not be limited to, the following...”

Review of Current VCW Policies, Guidelines, Issues

Commissioners reviewed a draft of Guiding Principles document. Commissioners discussed this document and suggested some changes.

Clarifying Committee Structure

The Commissioners participated in an exercise to help clarify the Commission’s committee structure.

Chairs’ Committee

Marcia reported that there has been an ad hoc group made up of the committee chairs meeting with her and staff members for advisory purposes, and that she would like to make it a standing committee of the Commission.

MOTION made by Carol Buchdahl and seconded by Ruth Finn:

To establish an official Chairs' Committee consisting of the Chair of the commission, the committee chairs, and staff.

MOTION APPROVED

Decision Tree

Eileen presented information and an example of a decision tree for the Commission's consideration. Commissioners discussed how beneficial a decision tree would be to the work of the Commission.

4. Updates/Announcements

Janet called everyone's attention to the email she sent to Commissioners on Monday asking for legislative luncheon follow up calls/emails to be done. She explained that she needs to know if legislators and constitutional officers will be attending the luncheon and if so, their meal choice. Any questions, please be in touch with Janet. Carol reminded folk that the Commission's Foundation – Vermont Commission on Women Education and Research Foundation (VCWERF) is sponsoring the luncheon and welcomes any and all donations to support the luncheon.

Charlotte informed folk that she and her husband stayed after the last Commission meeting to see the film, "Little House in the Big House". She explained that she and her husband are members of the Chittenden County Labor Committee and that they brought the film to the committee's attention and now the committee is considering asking to show the film at the State Labor Convention next month. Charlotte asked if there was other information, etc., that she should know as part of this conversation. Cary offered to talk with Charlotte further about this initiative.

5. Plus/Delta

What went well/ what worked

- Well organized
- Liked expanded information about the Commission
- Good group participation
- Liked decision tree
- Helpful for new members/furtherance of orientation
- Well prepared
- Liked background materials

What didn't work/could change

- the "exercise"
- More time
- More commissioners/advisors
- More substantive questions/issues

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.